

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

First Descriptive Letter From an Astorian.

R. L. FINLAYSON'S ACCOUNT

Interesting Epistle Direct From San Jose—Particular Incidents and Sensations—Lively Details Cheerfully Chronicled.

The first letter to reach this city from any of the Astoria people directly involved in the awful cataclysm that has overtaken central California, was received yesterday by Mr. James Finlayson, from his son, Robert L. Finlayson, at San Jose, and the Morning Astorian has been kindly permitted to make the following extracts from the very interesting document, to wit:

"San Jose, Cal., April 18th 1905
 "Dear Father:—If I could, I would telegraph you, but all lines are down and there is no communication of any nature from this place. By this time you will know that at 5.15 this morning we were visited by an extreme earthquake shock, practically demolishing the whole town; all the principal buildings being knocked down. The town is in complete excitement and fear; we got out of it luckily, only losing our dishes and pictures shaken from the walls, our house stood it all right, but our next door neighbor was partly demolished and stands askew on its pinnings. All the brick buildings are ruined, those which did not fall completely will have to be torn down and it is impossible to estimate the number of deaths.

"We are unable to get any news of San Francisco but it must be fearful to realize the loss of life and property there, as well as in Oakland. It is said that Santa Cruz is entirely wiped out, and it is with much anxiety that all are waiting to learn the worst. I do sincerely hope that you were not visited with this calamity.

"California is a ruined state today;

It will take a quarter of a century to wipe out the effects of today; business is totally suspended and the banks are afraid to open their doors; scenes of devastation are to be seen on all sides and the reckoning will be dreadful.

"I never thought that I would ever live in an earthquake-stricken place and I can assure you I hope never to witness a recurrence. The sensations are indescribable, and, fortunate for us, we occupy a one story cottage and in the suburbs away from high structures.

"I always imagined that an earthquake was of such short duration that one did not have time to realize the occurrence until all was over, but we had time to wake up, realize, and get from our beds to the outside of the house, there to witness the shaking and swinging of buildings and trees and to hear the awful noises from the tumbling buildings up town; then to see the fires start up in every direction. It is something awful to describe, and the speed with which one can get out of a house is not so fast, as it is almost impossible to keep ones feet. In my attempt to get Emma and Lindell to the door I was thrown against the wall with such violence that I fell, but fortunately when I got to the door, the building lurched so that the door opened freely. We are having shocks at intervals but not so severe, yet alarming, and tonight will be a wakeful one for all in this section.

"I hope that Jim has escaped, but I did not have any fear of harm as I think he occupied a wooden house, and they got off the best, of course all brick flues fell down. I don't suppose there are 100 standing in this town, ours came through the roof, and the sight, after it is over, to see the condition of things as they have been moved about is astonishing. Oregon with all its rain is a welcome state I am thinking, and you will certainly boom from henceforward, for San Francisco as it was as far as our generation is concerned, I am afraid. I hope my house at Fruitvale has not suffered greatly, for if it is demolished I am exactly out over \$3000, but the consolation I have is that all buildings must have gone if mine did.

"I am the only one at the factory, that is among the officials; today, and it has fallen upon me to make all reports, etc., and it is not a nice feeling to be inside when shocks are frequent, but I must, as well as getting off all

communications, get one to you. If the lines get up soon I will wire you, for no trains are moving from here, their wires also being down. A large insane asylum with 800 occupants, a lovely place, about three miles from here, has been completely demolished and it is estimated that 500 to 600 have perished, the superintendent as well.

"The fact is, that it is impossible for me, even though in its midst, to give you any conception what the damage is, for it is simply desolation on every side; and we feel very grateful to be among the spared, and hope, although our professors are claimed to predict further shocks, that the worst is over. However, our professors do not worry me in their beliefs, as they themselves are only human, and did not give us any warning of this first. Why, I feel the rocking sensation yet. As I sit, the walls are stripped of their plaster, and our shipping warehouse is one mass of spilled cans, but we number among the most fortunate, as all our buildings are standing, though showing the effects of the shock.

"Young man, come to California, NIT! Take a home in the cloudy skies and have your turbulent feelings cooled off with gentle dewdrops! Lindell, after all was over, remarked, 'Papa, it might rain a lot in Oregon, but don't you think it is better than this?' He happened to witness some bodies taken from the ruins, and I guess he voiced the sentiments of nearly all; however, I do not feel any alarm myself, although it is not a comfortable situation, but I realize the loss, commercial, to this beautifully State, as far as we, at our ages, are concerned, for things will depreciate beyond all argument, for some time, until it is forgotten, and if many more shocks like last night's come, there won't be many left to forget.

"Now don't worry, for all is over, for this time, and it is unlikely we will not have another for a century, all I hope is that the area of destruction did not reach as far as your section."

In concluding his letter, Mr. Finlayson draws a series of survey lines across the sheet, and labels them the lines of the earthquake shock, declaring that they lasted, to his mind, about nineteen hours, but actually, about one-half minute and not to exceed one full minute.

From the tenor and number of telegrams reaching this city from absent Astorians known to be in San Francisco and its immediate neighborhood, it seems that fate is dealing most kindly with the contingent from this city and every atom of the news is most gratefully received here. At 6 o'clock last evening G. C. Flavel received a wire from his sister, Miss Nellie Flavel dated at San Francisco on the 20th, saying: "All safe; staying with Mrs. Van Winkle at 650 Lake street, San Francisco. Leave Saturday night for Portland. Conditions awful."

James Finlayson is in receipt of a letter from his son Robert, at San Jose, announcing his own safety, but bearing no information of his brother James, at San Francisco. His letter bears date of April 18th, and is given at length in another column of this issue.

Martin Foard has heard of the safety of his brother Lawrence Foard at San Francisco. His business property on Stuart and East streets in that city, however, is wrecked beyond redemption.

Charles Wright and family, of the Hotel Occident, has been apprised of the safety of his son Prescott Wright, who has been studying dentistry in that metropolis.

Judge Taylor has confirmed the rumors of the safety of his family, by a wire received yesterday by Messrs. Nolan & Smith.

P. A. Kearney is in possession of the good news of the safety of James E. Meehan, at Oakland; "Mrs. S. Davies well and safe, by her brother, William Harder, but her husband, T. R. Davies is still unaccounted for."

Rev. W. S. Gilbert is rejoicing in the good news that his wife and little ones had not reached the stricken city at all, but were safe and well in San Jose, with friends, and had escaped all danger at that unhappy place. They delayed their departure for San Francisco most opportunely.

Miss May Magee was put in possession of the happy information that the Misses Anna and Belle Magee were safe and well in Oakland, the information having been sent her by Donald Ross, of this city, now serving the Postal Telegraph as an operator in Portland, asked Manager Humphrey of the Postal office here, to notify Miss Magee.

Gray will be the most popular coloring for Spring. 150 varieties of gray patterns, such as overplaid, diagonals and plain weaves, as well as an immense assortment of other tasty colorings and a large range of black and blue goods all of which will be worn by good dressers this Spring. Can be seen only at C. H. Cooper's on April 20th to 24th.

WATERFRONT ITEMS

North Star and North King off for Alaska.

BAD ACCIDENT TO COLUMBIA

Revenue Cutter Perry Leaves For San Francisco This Morning With Provisions For Sufferers—Nome City's Mascot—Odd Notes

The steamship Baracouta did not arrive from San Francisco yesterday confirming the conclusion that she has not left that port at all. It is understood by several of the local merchants that no vessel bearing any supplies of edibles have been permitted to depart from San Francisco, and that all such cargoes have been commandeered by the authorities for the benefit of the people threatened with famine, the Baracouta included.

Fine SeamanSHIP

The Simpson Lumber Company's five-masted schooner "Louis," Captain Haskins, arrived off Knappton on Friday night at 9 o'clock. Arriving at the bar at about 7 o'clock and wind and time being favorable, he decided to come in, so he sailed on up to an anchorage off the Knappton dock. This is rather a remarkable feat in sailing, as the channel is none too wide, and the hills along the Washington side would have a tendency to make the winds vary. The "Louis" will load about 1,000,000 feet for San Francisco, or at least that is what she was expected to do before the fire.

The lighthouse tender Heather has returned from her twelve-day trip to and around the Puget Sound stations. Captain McGregor reports all well.

The bar pilot schooner Pulitzer was sailed into port yesterday for the purpose of replenishing her tanks and larder with the necessities of life.

The steamer Alliance is due to arrive from Eureka at any hour, though no news has been received here of her departure from the California port.

The Harvest Queen arrived down yesterday morning with the four-masted schooner Polaris on her hawsers. The Polaris is due to sail for San Pedro at the earliest date.

The steam cannery-tender "North King," in the service of the Alaska Portland Packers' Association, left out yesterday morning for Nushagak almost simultaneously with the tender North Star.

The motor schooner Della, sometimes called the "pup" of the Astoria fleet of sea-goers, arrived in from Siletz yesterday morning, snug and hearty, and ready for another cargo for any port on the globe.

The steamer Lurline got away for Portland on schedule time last evening, with the following named people on her register: Captain A. L. Balbridge, H. D. Gaines, W. R. Cox, Mrs. J. E. O'Neil, W. W. Williams and J. V. Kamm.

The revenue steamer Perry will be at the Ross, Higgins & Company dock at 5 o'clock this morning. San Francisco-bound, and will take on board any and all provisions or shipments destined for the comfort of the sufferers in the Bay City. Captain Tuttle's anxiety will be relieved only when he has anchored in the beautiful bay of San Francisco and found his daughter and friends in safety, and all Astoria wishes him the best of good fortune in the quest.

The handsome little cannery-tender North Star, of this port, and belonging to the Alaska Fishermen's Packing Company, left yesterday morning at 10:30 for Nushagak, Alaska, with the following group of officers and men on board: Captain. Sander Pedersen; First Mate, A. Paulsen; Chief Engineer, S. V. Leabo; First Assistant Engineer, W. C. Reed; Oilers, D. A. Young, Oscar Johnson and Charles J. Olsen; Firemen, J. C. O. Enberg, M. M. Ehrmen; First cook, W. G. King; assistant cook, Wm. Anderson; waiters, Mons Johnson and Albert Abrahamson; watchman, P. A. Bergland; sailors and fishermen, John E. Olsen, C. Markland, L. Christiansen, Oscar Lidberg, Harry Phister, and Jens Hansen.

The steamer Nome City came down from Portland yesterday morning and left out for Redondo with her 850,000

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In spite of this the members of the Commission have worked faithfully in so far as they could to apply the law. If it were not for the compulsory education clause of the child labor law the juvenile law court of Multnomah county would be without its strongest ally.

"While the effort to enforce the law has been confined chiefly to Portland and Oregon City still an effort has been made, as some 300 or more certificates will testify:

"In addition to the Commission, the school authorities and the police are responsible for its enforcement—so that even if the Commission never saw Astoria, the school authorities and the police can act under the law.

"In closing I desire to thank you for the editorial criticisms of this character serve their purpose, and demonstrate to those who are working in the field that there are interest and responsibility elsewhere.

"While the most ardent supporter of child labor legislation does not believe that the evil can be cured through legislation, we must look to that source for its restriction and regulation. Those who are fond of saying that Oregon is free from the scourge are not fully advised—though it is not developed in the fearful strength found in the Eastern States, we have the beginnings and our legislation was secured none too soon. That there has grown in certain quarters a well-defined opposition to the law, which may lead to an effort to repeal it at the next session, is another bit of proof that it is being enforced. We have one of the best child labor laws in the United States—let us see to it that it be kept on our statute books—the only opposition thus far has come from the employer who can hire children cheaper than men and women. The ultimate cost to society of this exploitation of its children is not his concern.

"Trust that you will find space to publish this letter, I beg to remain, most respectfully yours,
 "MILLIE R. TRUMBALL."

A special representative from Strauss Bros., Chicago, master tailors, will be at C. H. Cooper's on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, April 20th, 21st, 23rd and 24th. Now is the time to order your new suit; you can't help but find a pattern to please you perfectly in this line of woollens conceded to be the largest and finest in America.

MONEY SENT TO FRISCO.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Several large banks of this city yesterday assisted their San Francisco correspondents either by direct transfers of cash to that city or by importing gold from Europe. Of the amount transferred to San Francisco yesterday \$1,450,000 was sent by telegraph in draft on the San Francisco mint in accordance with arrangements made by the treasury officials at Washington. In addition several large amounts in gold coins were shipped by rail, including \$1,000,000 to Los Angeles and \$1,000,000 to San Francisco.

Grocery Specials

FOR

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

French Prunes, small Sizes, 10 lbs 50c

Pink Beans, 25 lbs for - - \$1.00

Water Witch Soap, 12 boxes - 50c

Bananas, per dozen - 25c

Prepared Mustard, 6 oz Jars, 3 for 25c

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